

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 STR-01 EB-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /047 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8500

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0456

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, EEC

SUBJECT: STANDARDS HARMONIZATION: OPTIMUM METRIC FASTENER
SYSTEM (OMFS)

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 2301, MARCH 14, 1975

B) STATE 51493, MARCH 10, 1975

C) EC BRUSSELS 1701, FEB. 27, 1975

1. ON MARCH 18 WE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL
B WITH LOERKE AND AARTS OF THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE
GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. LOERKE INFORMED US THAT HIS
PRESENTATION TO THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED
FOR THIS WEEK (SEE REFTEL A), HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO MID-APRIL.
HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE DELAY BECAUSE THIS GIVES HIM ADDITIONAL
TIME TO GET A BETTER GRASP OF THE SUBJECT.

2. THE ONLY NEW POINT MADE BY THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS NOT
CONTAINED IN REFTELS A AND C WAS THAT THERE IS A CONCERN BY
EUROPEAN INDUSTRY THAT US SUBSIDIARIES IN EUROPE, AND THE CAR-
MAKERS IN PARTICULAR, WILL BE FORCED BY THEIR US HEADQUARTERS
TO USE OMFS STANDARDS FOR THEIR EUROPEAN-MADE CARS. EUROPE
WOULD THEN HAVE TWO STANDARDS WHICH WOULD POSE SERIOUS ENGINEER-
ING SAFETY PROBLEMS AND CREATE GREAT RETOOLING EXPENSE FOR
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SUBCONTRACTORS.

3. THE UPSHOT OF THE MEETING WAS THAT LOERKE SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE CLARIFICATION OF A NUMBER OF POINTS IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE. THESE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A) WHAT IS THE TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OMFS?
WHEN WILL US INDUSTRY MAKE DEFINITE DECISIONS TO USE THE OMFS?

B) TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE ISO AND THE OMFS STANDARDS COMPATIBLE AND INCOMPATIBLE? WHERE INCOMPATIBLE, ARE COMPROMISES POSSIBLE. (THE COMMISSION HAS MADE A GREAT POINT OF THE SAFETY ISSUE.) WHAT ARE US AND EUROPEAN RETOOLING COSTS GIVEN VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES?

C) IS WORK ACTUALLY PROGRESSING IN THE ISO TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES? WHAT ARE PROSPECTS FOR REACHING COMPROMISES?

D) WHAT LEVERAGE DOES THE USG HAVE OVER THE ISSUE WHEN IT ADOPTS A STANDARD FOR GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT?

4. REQUEST: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO HELP PERSUADE THE COMMUNITY TO ADOPT A REASONABLE POSITION ON FASTENER STANDARDS. GREENWALD

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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